

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-15 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1 and 3-12 are allowed. Claims 13 and 14 presently stand rejected.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and indicate approval of the **drawings filed on March 20, 2001**.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP-302074U.

In particular, the Examiner asserts that plug 20 in JP '074 is a single input-output terminal.

However, according to the claimed invention of claims 13 and 14, the “single input-output terminal is a single-head plug or a single-head jack”. That is, in the present invention it is characterized that a single input-output terminal is “a plug” or “a jack” having a “single-head” shape. This feature is illustrated in Figs. 7 to 9, 11 and 12 of the application, and page 5, lines 18 to 20 and page 6, lines 4 to 8 of the present specification.

On the other hand, according to Fig. 1 of JP '074, a terminal is not “a single-head plug or a single-head jack”. Accordingly, the reference does not teach each and every feature of claims 13 and 14. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13 and 14 have novelty in view of the reference, and should be patentable.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/739,326

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen R. Smith
Registration No. 43,042

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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